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June 27, 1999

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration (HF-I)  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I am writing to urge you to support the position taken by the World Health Organization that medicinally important antibiotics should not be used to promote growth in animals. There is mounting scientific evidence that the widespread use of antibiotics in raising livestock is contributing to antibiotic resistance in organisms that cause disease in humans.

From my own experience, I know that antibiotic resistance is becoming a serious problem. Recently the young daughter of a friend developed an ear infection that proved to be immune to treatment by all the ordinary antibiotics. Also, the wife a friend has developed a case of pink eye which so far has not responded to the standard antibiotics. In both cases, the attending physicians attributed difficulty in treating the infections to antibiotic resistance.

It has been claimed that the use of antibiotics in raising livestock is a benefit to the public by ensuring a plentiful supply of cheaply priced meat. However, I do not find this to be a compelling argument. Trading off human health for cheap meat is clearly not a good deal. This is especially true since other methods of producing meat at reasonable prices are available. Moreover, it well known that the health of Americans is already being adversely affected by the over consumption of meat and other animal products. The inescapable conclusion is that human health is really being traded off for maximizing corporate profits.

Sincerely,

*Rendon Holloway*

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